



Tuesday 17th December 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As we reach the end of term I wanted to remind parents about our finish time on Friday, when students return to school and some key dates in the first month:

End of term Autumn 2024 – Friday 20th December – school finishes at 12.10pm

Start of Spring term 2025 – Tuesday 7th January - normal school hours (students in for 08.25am)

Please note Monday 6th January is an INSET day for school staff only.

Year 9 Parent Teacher Consultation - Tuesday 14th January - 3.45pm to 7.15pm

Year 9 GCSE Options Evening - Thursday 23rd January - 6.00pm to 7.30pm

We wanted to take the opportunity to reinforce some key messages for the new year. Our expectations of all students are for the highest standards of conduct, respect, effort and personal achievement. We believe the close partnership between you as parents and staff at our school will result in your child achieving their very best at Ridgeway Academy. We will continue to challenge students to work hard, both in lessons and homework to continue to build excellent habits for learning which will lead to success in examinations. We are making some slight changes to our logistics in the new term to support these expectations.

Changes for Spring term – from Tuesday 7th January

We constantly review our Rewards and Consequences and make changes to best support students in making good behaviour decisions. With this in mind please note that we are changing our detention process, so that:

C3 Detentions - will now last 30 minutes rather than 50 minutes

C4 Detentions - will now last 60 minutes rather than 80 minutes

These will continue to run each day after school, with the exception of Tuesday. We will communicate with you in the normal way if your child receives one of these sanctions.

In addition, we are introducing a C3 consequence for students chewing gum at school. Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in this behaviour and discarded gum is causing a littering problem at the school. Therefore, no students are to chew gum at school.

Finally, we will be escalating sanctions received, so that if a student receives multiple sanctions as detailed below they will be escalated to the next sanction level:

- 3 x C2 in day will result in a C3
- 2 x C3 in a day will result in a C4
- 2 x C4 in day will result in a C5

This is intended to provide motivation for students to better self regulate their behaviours.

Communication

Emails and MCAS - communications are now being sent via emails. MCAS will continue to be used for academic reports, information about behaviour logs and attendance.

School calendar - dates of upcoming events and information evenings can be found on the school website on our school calendar [here](#).

Catering

This term has been an exciting one, as we welcomed our new catering provider to the school community. I'm pleased to share that the transition has been a successful one, and the feedback from students, staff, and families has been incredibly valuable in shaping the experience.

Listening to this feedback is vital to us, and we are committed to continually enhancing the services we provide. With this in mind, I am delighted to announce that, starting in January 2025, we will be introducing various **meal deal** options, which will be published on our website and in our restaurant. We hope these new offerings will provide more choice, value, and convenience for our students and be warmly received by all.

Standards - uniform, equipment and conduct

Uniform expectations

Students must be in full school uniform every day from January. Shirts must be tucked in at all times with the top button also secured and the tie displaying the Ridgeway crest and correctly tied.

- Tie and blazer must be worn on site at all times.
- Skirts must reach the top of the knees.
- Hair must be a natural colour and no extreme hair styles are acceptable.
- Make-up, false/gel nails and nail varnish is not to be worn by any student in school. Students will be required to remove make-up, false/gel nails and nail varnish.
- Earrings - one small pair of studs can be worn (but these must be removed for PE lessons)
- No other jewellery is permitted, this includes facial and other body piercings.
- Only the Ridgeway Academy branded jumper is permitted, no other jumpers, hoodies or other layers are permitted. A coat should be purchased for the colder weather.
- Only school shoes are permitted; trainers and boots will not be tolerated. If a student does not have the correct shoes they will be asked to wear school plimsolls provided by Student Services for the day. Unless there is a medical condition, students will be required to change - please support us in ensuring that students change into shoes offered.

The Ridgeway Uniform Policy can be found on the school website via the link below.

[Ridgeway Uniform](#)

Jewellery – all students will be checked to make sure that all rings, bracelets have been removed and that earrings are in line with school policy. **Students will also need to remove all facial piercings.** We have tried to be supportive around this issue, but this has resulted in students pushing boundaries to an unacceptable level. Students who refuse to remove their facial piercings will be sent home.

Equipment - all students must come to school with the correct equipment to ensure learning can take place effectively in the classroom. Equipment should consist of blue or black pen, pencil, ruler, eraser, pencil sharpener, protractor, pair of compasses and a scientific calculator (ideally Casio). Key Stage 3 students must have a suitable Chromebook which is charged daily at home for use in school. Further information about Chromebooks can be found [here](#).

Mobile phones

Our policy of students not having their mobile phones continues unchanged. Students who bring their mobile phones to school will need to hand them in during morning tutor time and they will be returned at the end of the day unless they have a detention. Phones will be available for students to collect at the end of their detention. We have a zero tolerance to students having their phones with them, or using them, during the school day and C5 sanctions will be issued

Parental Support

We would like to remind parents of the importance of a positive learning attitude and how students are responsible for making good choices throughout the school day. Ridgeway Academy values are integral to success within our community, showing respect to all, building positive relationships and taking responsibility for their own actions. It is imperative that all students are reminded of the importance of following the school code of conduct, and that they are respectful and responsive when interacting with all members of the school community. This includes 100% effort in all aspects of their learning and home based learning. We are working with all students on the following focus areas:

- **Courtesy and respect** around school and in lessons - this includes speaking politely to all members of our school community, picking up litter, offering to help others, holding doors open for each other and following instructions for the first time. Exemplary behaviour will be rewarded with house points.
- **Attitude to learning** - students arrive to lessons well prepared and ready to learn. They should meet their teacher in their designated classroom and quickly settle to ensure the register can be taken in silence. During the lesson, students should strive to follow The RidgeWAY expectations and achieve house points to acknowledge their exemplary effort to their learning.
- **Punctuality to lessons** - students arrive on time to all lessons, taking the shortest route to get there. Students who do not have one single late mark entered on system are entered into a prize draw to be rewarded for their exemplary effort.
- **Uniform** - ensure that uniform is worn correctly at all times.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support with these matters. We hope that by providing some clarity on these issues, prior to the end of term, that it will give you the opportunity to discuss them with your child and make the necessary preparations for January.

We hope that you and your loved ones have a safe and enjoyable break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Kind regards



Mrs S Mitcherson
Headteacher